

March 26, 1974

PRESIDENT: Now, we will continue on LB1053.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a message on my desk.

PRESIDENT: Read the message.

CLERK: Read message from the Governor. Governor signed LB622, 644, 763, 775, 788, 865, 865A, 876, 890, 905, 919 and 1001. Mr. President, there is now pending the amendment offered by Senator Carpenter which is set up on page 1297 in full of the Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter. Is this Senator Carpenter's amendment, Mr. Clerk? Have you read the amendment?

CLERK: Set out in full on page 1297 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter, will you explain the amendment?

SENATOR CARPENTER: Is this on page 23, line 14?

CLERK: Page 1297 of the Journal. It amends page 18, after 14, insert the following.

PRESIDENT: Page 1297 of your Journal.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Is that the one on the water treatment facilities?

CLERK: No, it's the Department of Roads, shall meet the following requirements prior to the obligation and expenditure of highway cash funds.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Now, Mr. President, this is a highly important bill insofar as this Body determining policy is concerned. I never knew until recently and I don't think many other senators did even those that have been intimately involved in the area of state highways. The State of Nebraska because of the federal government sometime ago now matches 70% on primary highways and 90% on interstate. The State of Nebraska including this year has never failed to match every federal dollar that the federal government had available in the matching of funds which would comply with the requirements of the federal government. We now have \$20 million dollars a year...this year...and in previous years which is caused in part by the increase cost by matching by the federal government...from 50 to 70. Now, the Highway Department, for a number of years, not a long period as far as I can recall, but for several years, has been building roads and bidding with 100% of state money. Now you may want to do that or you may not want to do that. But it seems to me that we are not in that big of a hurry in order to spend 100% of our money...the state's money...in order to build federally approved highways meeting federal specifications. It might be that in a short period of time, in a year or so, the federal government will have additional money available which we can accumulate as we now have to some extent and hold it for matching and rather than paying 100%, we're only going to pay 30%. Because the federal would put up the 70% and that's all we'd have to put up. Also there's a great desire in this Body for economy. There's a great desire in an attempt to stabilize the sale and the income tax and bearing in mind that what we're talking about is for only one year. Only for one year. The amendment provides that we